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Simpson Everett Stilwell.

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SIMPSON EVERETT STILWELL.

JUNE 29, 1897.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 496.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 496) granting a pension to Simpson Everett Stilwell, have examined the same, and report:

A similar bill passed the Senate during the first session of the Fifty-fourth Congress, and was reported favorably by the House. Your committee recommend the passage of the bill, adopting the report of the Senate committee to the Fifty-fourth Congress, which report is as follows:

The claimant under this bill has a most remarkable record as a scout and guide, and, although not an enlisted man, he performed services such as justly entitle him to pension by special act of Congress. The records show that in addition to performing most perilous duties as a scout, enduring privations and hardships such as few men could have endured, he did actual military service on occasions, exposing his life with a reckless courage that proved him to be a genuine hero. A showing conclusively the value of his services, the annexed petition of the applicant and statements from officers and soldiers with whom he was associated are of interest:

PETITION OF S. E. STILWELL.

ANADARKO, OKLA., March 16, 1896.

To the United States Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

I herewith present my application for a pension. The grounds on which this application is based are my services as a scout and guide for United States troops while in the field, operating against hostile Indians, and the entire loss of my health, the result of such service.

I commenced scouting early in the spring of 1867, at Fort Dodge, Kans., which post was commanded by (then) Major Douglass. During the early part of the summer of 1867 I was in several small fights or skirmishes with Indians, the most important of which took place at what was then known as the Cimmaron crossing of the Arkansas River. About the 1st of August I was sent as a guide with four troops of the Eighteenth Kansas Volunteers to Fort Hays. From that post I accompanied as scout several different expeditions—one under command of Captain Graham, of the Tenth Cavalry, another under command of Bvt. Maj. G. A. Armes, also of the Tenth Cavalry, and took part in three engagements that summer and fall on the Solomon, Saline, and Republican rivers, in western Kansas.

Early in the spring of 1868, when the Cheyenne and Sioux Indians broke out and raided Spillman Creek settlement, I was employed against them until Gen. George A. Forsyth, then major on General Sheridan's staff, raised his company of scouts at Fort Harker, which company I joined, and remained with him until after his battle on the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River. I am one of the two men (the other long since dead) who carried his dispatches for relief to Fort Wallace by crawling through the Indian lines in the night, and making the trip, a distance of 110 miles, on foot, subsisting entirely on horse meat; but this already is a matter of history. After our return to Fort Hays I was ordered by General Sheridan south to join Gen. G. A. Custer's command, accompanying him on his winter campaign against the Southern Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches.

During this winter I suffered great hardships while carrying dispatches from Camp Supply to what is now Fort Sill and other points in the field, returning to Fort Hays in May, 1869, when I was ordered to Camp Supply, where I reported for duty to Colonel Nelson, under whose command I remained until January, 1870. In that spring I rejoined General Custer, whose headquarters were at Fort Hays, Kans., accompanying all the scouting parties sent out that summer. In the spring of 1871 I was employed as scout and post guide at Fort Sill, which position I held until the fall of 1876, first under the command of Gen. B. F. Greirson and afterwards under Col. R. S. McKinzie. During the summer months of 1871, 1872, and 1873 I was in the field with different scouting parties almost constantly, taking part in nearly all if not every fight that occurred between United States troops from Fort Sill and the hostile Indians along the border of Texas. The summer of 1874, when all the Indians on the southern reservation went to war, I was in the field with Gen. John W. Davidson's command, and accompanied nearly all of his detachments.

In the winter of 1874 and 1875 I had to undergo great hardships, at one time breaking through the ice on the North Fork of the Red River during a terrible storm, while endeavoring to get news to Capt. William Davis, of the Tenth Cavalry, as to the whereabouts of a Comanche camp. In March, 1875, I made a trip with one white man into the Staked Plains and induced the Qubada Band of Comanches, under the leadership of Moway and Quanah, to come in and make peace, they being the last of the Comanches to surrender. After this I remained at Fort Sill until the fall of 1876. In 1878 I was employed at Fort Davis, Camp Stockton, and other temporary camps in the field, acting as scout and guide with the troops in their operations against the hostile Apaches. From 1879 until 1882 I accompanied several minor expeditions or scouting parties against small bands of Indians. In 1873 and 1874 rheumatism had begun to effect me to the extent that I would sometimes ride with great difficulty, growing worse until 1882, when I was confined to my bed for about six months, and have been so confined at different times since.

By reason of this rheumatism my right knee has become stiffened and has caused a shortening of my right leg of 1½ inches; also my right shoulder and hip are seriously affected; all of which has resulted in preventing me now from performing the necessary labor to gain me a livelihood.

I therefore request that a pension of \$60 per month be allowed me. I have the honor to submit several letters of indorsement from different United States Army officers who know my services.

Hoping for favorable consideration at your hands, I submit this, my petition, and am,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. E. STILWELL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7, 1896.

SIR: Mr. S. E. Stilwell, of Anadarko, Okla., is an applicant for a pension from the Government, basing his claims upon services rendered by him on the Northwestern frontier for the last twenty-eight years. Stilwell is one of the best Government scouts I have ever known. In the summer of 1868, by direction of General Sheridan, I organized and swore into the military service a company of frontiersmen for active service against the Sioux Indians, who at that time were in arms against the Government. In the fall of that year I had a desperate engagement with a large body of Sioux on the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River, on the border of Kansas and Colorado.

We were surrounded and besieged for eight days. Stilwell, with one other man, volunteered to try and steal through the enemy's line and get word of our desperate situation to the commanding officer at Fort Wallace. This he did, and aid was promptly sent us. It was an act of great heroism and still greater peril. Since then Stilwell has served as Government scout with many officers of the Army on the Northwestern frontier. He has always done good service, and is held in deservedly high estimation by all with whom he has come in contact. He writes me that he is

permanently disabled, owing to his hard work in the Government service. I do not know of a more deserving case, and I earnestly recommend that a pension be granted him.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. A. FORSYTH,

Brevet Brigadier-General, United States Army.

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,

United States Senate.

FORT RILEY, KANS., *February 24, 1896.*

I have to state that I knew Mr. S. E. Stilwell when he was employed as a scout by the Government on the plains in 1868. He was one of the party under Bvt. Brig. Gen. George A. Forsyth, United States Army, who, while scouting on the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River in Kansas and Colorado, were attacked by a large force of Cheyenne and Sioux Indians, estimated at about 700. By intrenching and defending themselves with gallantry the scouts succeeded in repulsing the first onslaughts, but were surrounded by the savages, who watched them from every side. Stilwell and another scout volunteered to make the effort to escape through the Indians and obtain succor from the nearest army post. This they did, crawling out at night, at the imminent risk of their lives, and finally succeeded in bringing the news to Fort Wallace, from which troops were sent, resulting in the rescue of Forsyth's party by my command in September, 1868.

Stilwell remained in the service as a scout for a considerable time, and did very arduous and dangerous duty in the Indian campaigns. His gallantry and valuable services demand consideration, and if his health has been broken down it is but just and proper that he should be pensioned by the Government.

L. H. CARPENTER,

Lieutenant-Colonel Seventh United States Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,

St. Paul, Minn., February 24, 1896.

MY DEAR STILWELL: I received your letter yesterday. You had mailed it to Washington, which accounts for delay. I should be very glad, indeed, if you could secure a pension by special act of Congress. Your most valuable services as a scout during the great Indian war of 1868-69 with Cheyennes, Sioux, and others were highly appreciated by my brother, the late General Sheridan, who commanded in those campaigns, and he on more than one occasion commended the bravery and skill by which you got through the Indian lines that surrounded Gen. George A. Forsyth on the Arickaree Fork of the Republican to fetch to Fort Wallace the news of his predicament and the possibility of the annihilation of his command unless he secured immediate aid.

I hope you will be successful, and have no objections to your using this letter to commend you to Congress, if you think it will be of any avail.

Yours, truly,

M. V. SHERIDAN,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

Mr. S. E. STILWELL, *Anardako, Okla.*

FORT CUSTER, MONT., *February 25, 1896.*

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 17th instant, and am very sorry to hear of your condition. I trust sincerely that you will be successful in obtaining a pension.

I remember well that you served as a scout and guide for troops of the Tenth Cavalry, when in the field in Texas and Indian Territory, from about 1873 to 1879. Your services were always meritorious, and, at times, invaluable. I write this from personal knowledge, for you were with me when I was in command on several occasions. I know that you served with troops in the campaigns of 1874-1875 against the Kiowas, Comanches, and Cheyennes, and subsequently against the Apaches.

Your career previous to my having personal knowledge of you is well known to me, for the late General Custer speaks of you in his *My Life on the Plains*. I know that you were one of the two men who, when there was not one chance in a thousand of

your getting through, carried the intelligence of Forsyth's condition on the Republican. All this is a matter of history, and can be substantiated by officers now living. You deserve a pension for your services. You are at liberty to use this letter if you think it will be of any use.

Very respectfully,

S. T. NORVELL, *Major, Tenth Cavalry.*

S. E. STILWELL, *Anadarko, Okla.*

FORT WALLAWALLA, WASH., *March 3, 1896.*

I earnestly recommend Mr. Jack Stilwell to the favorable consideration of those who have the power to aid a worthy and deserving man. The writer knew Mr. Stilwell at Fort Hays, Kans., in 1867, as a young fellow who was a scout and guide for some of the military commands engaged in field work in those days. He was on duty as a scout with Colonel Forsyth's command when attacked by a large band of Indians, Cheyennes, Brules, and Ogallala Sioux, some 900 in number, on September 17, 18, 19, and 20, 1868, on the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River in Kansas. I quote Colonel Forsyth's account of the affair to show the confidence he had in his young scout. After defending himself from the savage attacks of the Indians, and with the decreasing numbers of his command, he concluded to send for assistance to Fort Wallace, Kans., some 110 miles distant. He (the colonel) says, in the report of the affair: "I selected two men of a large number of volunteers, Piere Waden, an old trapper and guide, and a young fellow named Jack Stilwell, a handsome boy of about 19 years, with all the pluck and enthusiasm of an American frontier lad, who afterwards became one of the best known and most reliable scouts on our Northwestern frontier. Better men for the purpose it would have been difficult to find. I gave Stilwell, as he was by far the more intelligent and better educated man of the two, my only map, told him about where I thought we were, and gave him directions to get to Fort Wallace as quickly as possible, tell Colonel Bankhead, the commanding officer and an old friend, our situation, as he would probably send or more than likely come at once to our rescue; to return with him and guide him to us. After midnight he and Waden stole out quietly, walking backward in their stocking feet, carrying their boots slung around their necks, that the impress of their feet in the sand might make a similar mark to a moccasin and deceive the Indians should they discover the sign." This statement is made by Col. G. A. Forsyth in a story of the affair as related in a magazine article in 1895, and is high tribute to worth of Mr. Stilwell and the confidence reposed in him under most trying circumstances.

W. B. KENNEDY, *Major, Fourth Cavalry.*

FORT GRANT, ARIZ., *March 3, 1896.*

To whom it may concern:

I have known Mr. S. E. Stilwell since 1871, when he was employed by the Government as a scout at Fort Sill, Ind. T., which service he performed faithfully and to the interest of the Government, and I believe would be recommended by every officer under whose command he has served.

He was one of the scouts under command of Col. George A. Forsyth, in 1868, at the battle with Cheyenne Indians on the Republican River, and was more than highly spoken of for his bravery and meritorious conduct.

In my opinion he is entitled to a great deal of consideration.

Very respectfully,

T. A. BALDWIN, *Major, Seventh Cavalry.*

FORT ASSINNIBOINE, MONT., *March 1, 1896.*

SIR: Your favor of the 17th ultimo to hand and contents noted. In reference to your application to Congress to grant you a pension in consequence of contracting a disability while in the service of the Government as a scout, I will say that I do not know of anyone more deserving than you for consideration of Congress. I have known you as a scout since 1867. And I don't know of any scout who has rendered greater service or taken greater risks than yourself during all that time. No greater service could have been rendered by anybody than that which you rendered in the rescue of Forsyth's command, and also that which you performed in the Comanche campaign of 1874-75, when you and Kilmartin entered Moway's camp, the last chief

of the Comanches, who held out after we had been in the saddle the greater part of those two years, and which resulted in that chief surrendering and the opening of the Pan Handle of Texas, which was previously a terra incognita to the whites. Wishing you every success before Congress,

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. KELLEY, *Major, Tenth Cavalry.*

Mr. S. E. STILWELL.

UNITED STATES INFANTRY AND CAVALRY SCHOOL,
OFFICE OF COMMANDANT,

Fort Leavenworth, Kans., March 14, 1896.

DEAR SIR: I understand there is a bill before Congress to give you a pension for disability contracted while performing the hard and dangerous duty as a scout years ago when the Army, ably assisted by such men as you, was paving the way for the advance of civilization in the West. I wish to express to you the hope that the pension will be given you, for in my opinion no soldier is more entitled to it.

Your gallant conduct on the Republican, when, amid a thousand dangers, you volunteered and went for assistance for the command, then besieged and on the verge of annihilation by a murderous horde of savages, has never been recognized, and I trust that, now you are disabled, Congress will provide for your support.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

MARION P. MAUS, *Captain, First Infantry.*

S. E. STILWELL, Esq., *Anadarko, Okla.*

MADISON BARRACKS, SACKET HARBOR, N. Y., *February 24, 1896.*

DEAR FRIEND JACK: I address you as captain because I know you have done more real, hard, dangerous service for the country than hundreds of men who have that title. I first met you personally in 1885, when I had charge of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in the then Indian Territory. You were with me through my tour there. I had known of your many years of splendid service as guide and scout, of your heroism in Government service on the plains and throughout later years. Under my observation I know you did your full duty, and more, with intelligence, zeal, and fearlessness, and I have heard numbers of prominent officers speak of you in the highest terms. Now that you have passed the meridian of life your many exposures while in the Government service must be telling on you. I hope our great and good Government will fully recognize your valuable services by placing your name on the list of those who are fully entitled to its aid. I assure you that I will take great pleasure in doing anything I can for you.

I think men who have gone through the hardships and trials which you have in opening up and developing the Western country, and have by such service become disabled, are deserving of special consideration.

Now, my friend "Jack," I'll look over the list of Congressmen and Senators, and if I can find one who has not forgotten me, I'll drop him a line on you as a subject.

You can use this letter, or such parts of it as you think best, in any way you think best.

(Better have it copied, because I'm writing on the jump.)

With best wishes for your success in all things, and especially in this,

I remain, as ever, truly your friend,

J. M. LEE,
Captain Ninth Infantry

(Late Acting Indian Agent for Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians).

Capt. S. E. STILWELL, *Anadarko, Okla.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Omaha and Winnebago Agency, Nebr., February 25, 1896.

To whom it may concern:

Having learned that S. E. Stilwell is endeavoring to obtain special legislation with a view to obtaining a pension, I take pleasure in furnishing testimony to the value of his services. He has been a faithful, efficient scout, and as long ago as 1868 rendered invaluable services to the United States, not only in fighting at the Arickaree Fork of the Republican River, Kansas, with Forsyth's scouts, but in carrying

dispatches through the hostile Indians to Fort Wallace, Kans., for reenforcements to General (then Major) Forsyth, on the occasion referred to.

Later on, Stilwell was scout in the Indian Territory for different commands and was regarded by all officers under whom he served as a reliable, courageous scout. At one time, in 1878, he served under my command in southwestern Texas, and I found him, as usual, intelligent and thoroughly reliable.

He has spent the best years of his life in the service as a United States scout, and always did his duty in a fearless, prompt, and skillful manner, and it is hoped that he will be placed on the pension rolls as a matter of equity.

WM. H. BECK,
Captain, Tenth United States Cavalry.

FORT CUSTER, MONT., *February 25, 1896.*

To all whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I am, and have been, personally acquainted, since 1873, with S. E. Stilwell, popularly known in the Army and amongst plainsmen and frontiersmen as "Jack Stilwell," and whom I have heard termed by the Indians as the "Whirlwind," or "Whirlwind of the Prairies," the latter designation having been given, as I understood, to signify sweep, power, force, rapidity, etc., and to apply characteristically to said Stilwell, generally, as scout, guide, etc., when employed by the Government in that capacity.

I served much with said Stilwell on the frontier, and often in the field with him during the period of Indian hostilities from 1873 to 1876, and ever found him a cool, determined, and resolute man, a most reliable and absolutely trustworthy scout, and possessed of intrepid bravery. During the field operations in northern Texas and the Indian Territory, 1873, 1874, 1875, he performed most commendable and valuable services to the Government, often taking his life into his hands for days at a time in his capacity as scout, and from exposure from winter-weather elements, as well as from the unerring aim of the death-dealing and murderous savage, his life was one of peril, full of almost daily critical exposure of the most hazardous kinds and of long and hard riding of the most trying, fatiguing, and suffering character. I can recall one ride, demanding the utmost endurance, as bearer of dispatches containing information of the highest importance and of most valuable character from the Kiowa and Comanche Agency to the Cheyenne Agency, Ind. T., and return of 150 miles within twenty-four hours' time, when, from the large number of parties of hostiles prowling over and infesting the country through which he passed, the successful accomplishment of the feat seemed as incredible as impossible.

I understand this old, tried, true, faithful, and brave scout is now worn out, broken down, and entirely disabled and in want. I recommend him as a man worthy of consideration and assistance, and for his long and valuable services I earnestly commend and believe him entitled to the sympathy, appreciation, and material assistance of the generous public and substantial aid and recognition of a grateful Government.

OWEN J. SWEET,
Captain, Twenty-fifth United States Infantry.

FORT CUSTER, MONT., *February 24, 1896.*

DEAR SIR: I remember perfectly well the very important services you rendered to the Government when the Tenth Cavalry was in the Indian Territory, and always amidst the greatest perils and exposure. Such service can not be performed without its resulting in great physical disability as the man grows older, and such must be your case. I sincerely trust that the Government will give you the pension so well merited, as your services were invaluable.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES G. AYRES,
Captain, Tenth Cavalry.

MR. S. E. STILWELL, *Anadarko, Okla.*

EL RENO, OKLA., *March 14, 1896.*

To whom it may concern:

I have known Mr. S. E. Stilwell for twenty years; knew him first as a scout for the United States Government at Fort Sill, Ind. T. I know that he did good and efficient service; that he was trusted fully by Generals Davidson and McKenzie. I

know that his health has been poor since 1883. He has suffered from rheumatism and is unable to perform manual labor. He was instrumental in bringing in Moway and his band of wild Indians. I consider him a most worthy man, and hope our Government may assist him as he deserves.

NEAL W. EVANS,
County Treasurer, Canadian County, Okla.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20, 1896.

To whom it may concern:

I have known of Mr. S. E. Stilwell, formerly United States scout and guide, since 1867, and have been personally acquainted with him since the year 1871. He has served with me in the field during many years, often under my command, and I can therefore testify of my personal knowledge of much of his valuable service to the Government during the past twenty-eight years.

Stilwell's first conspicuous service was in the summer of 1868, when scarcely more than a boy. As one of Gen. George A. Forsyth's command, then surrounded by hundreds of hostile Sioux and Cheyennes on the Republican River, in Kansas, he volunteered to penetrate the enemy's lines and carry the news of the desperate condition of the command to Fort Wallace, Kans., a distance of 110 miles, on foot. This he succeeded in doing, the result being the rescue of his beleaguered comrades from certain massacre.

This heroic and perilous feat is typical of Stilwell's course since. No service was ever too difficult or hazardous for him to undertake. Originally possessed of an iron constitution, he for years performed feats of hardship and endurance of which but few men were capable. To these physical perfections Stilwell added an acute perception of the difficulties met with in Indian warfare and an intelligent appreciation of the magnitude of obstacles to be surmounted, so that it was rarely necessary to give him more than general instructions in a given case.

During a service of nearly thirty years on the frontier I have known a great many of Stilwell's class, but, in my judgment, he surpasses them all in the characteristics and in the essentials which make the "scout and guide."

He is now a wreck—worn out in the service of his country, unable longer to earn his living. Congress should, in justice, grant him a pension.

C. E. NORDSTROM,
Captain, Tenth Cavalry.

FORT ROBINSON, NEBR., February 26, 1896.

To all whom it may concern:

I have known Mr. S. E. Stilwell for over a year. He served at my post as chief packer. He is a good and able man when physically fit for duty, but was completely broken down with rheumatism. I have known of him for some years as a man who has seen much hard service in the Government service, and have heard of him as a competent man, and I think one worthy of any consideration that can be bestowed.

JAMES BIDDLE,
Colonel Ninth Cavalry, Commanding Post.

As bearing on the condition of claimant's health, the following medical affidavits are submitted:

EL RENO, OKLA., March 2, 1896.

A. H. Jackson, being duly sworn, testifies that he is a graduate in medicine and a regular practitioner for the past twenty-one years, and has known S. E. Stilwell for the past eight years, and has examined the said S. E. Stilwell and finds him badly afflicted with arthritis of the right knee, which resulted in ankylosis of that joint, and also badly afflicted with rheumatism of the right hip and shoulder; he further testifies that during the past eight years he has known the said S. E. Stilwell to be confined to his bed and room, suffering great bodily pain from the effects of the said disease, and that S. E. Stilwell is wholly unable to perform manual labor from the effects of the aforesaid disease; and that he is not interested directly or indirectly in this application for pension.

ALLISON H. JACKSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2d day of March, 1896.

[SEAL.]

BENJ. F. HEGLER,
Clerk of the District Court for the Second Judicial District of Oklahoma,
By E. W. HEGLER, Deputy.

EL RENO, OKLA., March 2, 1896.

C. F. McElrath, being duly sworn, testifies that he is a graduate in medicine, and that he has been engaged in practice for twenty-nine years; that he has known S. E. Stilwell for eleven years; that he has treated him at various times during that period for arthritis of right knee, which resulted in ankylosis of that joint; also for rheumatism of right hip and shoulder on account of said disabilities. He has been unable to perform manual labor for the last ten years. He further states that he is not personally interested in said case.

C. F. McELRATH, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 2d day of March, 1896.

[SEAL.]

BENJ. F. HEGLER,

Clerk District Court for the Second Judicial District of Oklahoma.

In view of claimant's long and remarkable service, and the further fact that he is now in destitute circumstances and permanently disabled for manual labor, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.